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1993

Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia Sent Anti-LGBT Statement by URI Faculty

George deLodzia Ph.D.

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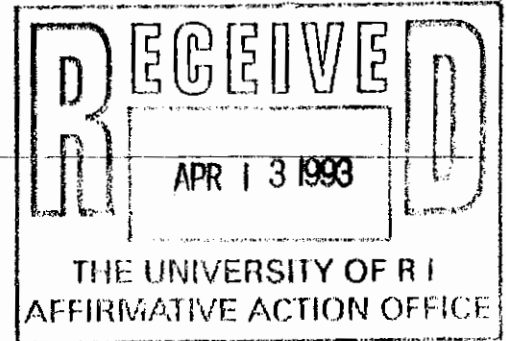
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CENTENNIAL
University of Rhode Island
College of Business Administration
Department of Management



M E M O

TO: The Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism
FROM: Dr. George deLodzia, Management Department *gal*
DATE: April 5, 1993
SUBJECT: Your Memo to "Eliminate"

Many colleagues on campus recommended I not write this letter for fear of retaliation. Their fear attests to the reputation many of you "divisive" folks have intimidated. I will never forget the verbal and physical castigation a handful of us received during the ROTC debate in the Senate. Reasoning with you is out of the question.

I was particularly disgusted at your recent memo calling for "elimination of ...". The last time I heard this threat was in Europe during World War II when another self-appointed cell was "eliminating" ideas, children, religious opponents, jews, and countries. The first step of most reactionary groups like yours is to attack, label, then disrupt. Your group-thinking has put you outside of the basic mission of a university.

I abhor any radical movement, right or left that seeks to impose "right thinking" on anyone. You and others have hyped this gay and diversity issue to such an extent that your threats have diverted attention from other critical problems facing the campus, and, the education of students in the new economy. Why not show evidence of wrong doing to gays and lesbians, individually and as a group to the proper judicial channels? Your rantings might be totally acceptable at a private university such as Brown or Brandeis where there is enough fat in the budget to accommodate the idleness of professors and students. Our students are not so lucky. Many of our students work; most have parents who can barely afford to send them to learn the skills and competencies to critically think and survive in a troubled market place.

Kingston, RI 02881-0801

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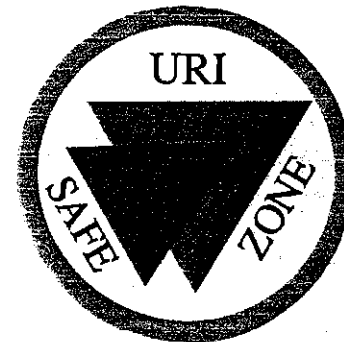
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I don't think the legislature, the governor and URI parents are prepared to fund the use of the state supported Affirmative Action office for the advancement of special interest groups that want to "eliminate" free speech and beliefs on campus. We are in the business of equal opportunity education at URI not social activism. Hence, I suggest you conduct your personal business outside of the official university channels and state supported offices. Governor Sundlum's message on ethics applies here. Reimburse the university for the time you spend and the office space, mail, and phones you are misusing for other than official business. Don't bother those of us who are educating students.

U. of R.I. promises

'safe zone' for gays

KINGSTON, R.I.—"Safe Zone" stickers (below) are appearing on doors and desks at the University



of Rhode Island's campus here to let gays and bisexuals know they are safe and welcome.

The stickers bear the pink and black triangles that have become symbols for the gay-rights movement. The sticker campaign was organized by the university's Committee to Eliminate Homophobia and Heterosexism.

Diana Goodman, interim head of URI's affirmative-action office and a member of the panel, said that displaying the sticker signifies that a person "will be non-judgmental, understanding, and trustworthy" towards gays and bisexuals. She added that the campaign is a response to "a sense of gay invisibility" on the campus. ■

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